

## I°- PRESENTATION OUTLINE

<b>TITLE</b>	International Collaboration in Surgical Robotics and Medical Device Development
<b>SUBTITLE</b>	Background and thoughts about...
<b>KEY-WORDS</b>	minimal invasive surgery, robot-assisted surgery, international collaboration, Japan-EU collaboration

## ABSTRACT

Minimal Invasive Surgery (MIS) is a driving factor behind the development of surgical robotics and more recently of smart instrumentation. The Robot-Assisted Surgery (RAS) group of KU Leuven, to whom the speaker belongs to, has been active since 2000 in this field. The three main pillars of activity are assistive robotics, development of surgical instruments and surgical training techniques. The attention from the general public towards this particular field is growing steadily these days. This increased awareness allowed RAS to acquire governmental subsidies for a number of high-level international research projects. Within this short talk the speaker briefly introduces some of these projects and further discusses in general terms some experiences of running such international projects. Bilateral EU-Japan projects have been very scarce so far. The speaker raises some thoughts on some aspects of such collaboration and raises questions to be answered in search of an optimal collaboration model. EU and Japan share many commonalities such as an ageing society, pressure to reduce healthcare expenditure, but also have a long tradition in robotics and instrument design. As developments in this highly multi-disciplinary field are speeding up it is important to collaborate closely to ensure both parties are able to play an important role in this field and by doing so are able to maintain a certain level of autonomy over care-giving of the respective populations.